

MRS Monthly Network Meeting

Western Counties

Hickory - January 16, 2004

David

- Introductions, said Rebecca and Adolph would present, then each county would discuss where they were with each step.

Rebecca

- Discussed training classes and requirements. (For further details see minutes from MRS meeting of original 10 counties.)

Adolph

- Discussed the evaluation process. Was developed with the 10 pilot counties and originally done with an excel spreadsheet but we are moving to a web based application. Will let them know more regarding the web application shortly. Until this is in place, will need to collect the data elements another way. He will email the data elements to counties. Duke will process data and compile a report for the General Assembly.

Davidson County

#1 Strengths based structured Intake

Doing it.

#2 Two approaches to reports

Starting to work on, deciding internally which staff to put in each track, have attended some training.

#3 Coordination w/ Law Enforcement

No more so than they had previous to MRS (their sheriff currently under indictment).

#4 Redesign of in home services

Not yet.

#5 Child & Family Teams

Not yet.

#6 Shared Parenting

Not yet implemented – meeting some resistance to idea.

#7 Coordination w/ Work First

Were already set up to do this, have expanded somewhat.

* Director sent question regarding sites for Team meetings. She is concerned about the after hours access to the building. Has identified other sites in the community that would be willing to host the meetings. Other counties said they often prefer off site meetings because they families feel that it puts them on more equal ground.

Jackson County

#1 Strengths based structured Intake

- Doing it, working well.
- #2 Two approaches to reports
Staff division working well, struggle to decide what to do with current case management/case planning cases.
 - #3 Coordination w/ Law Enforcement
Have a good relationship.
 - #4 Redesign of in home services
Not yet.
 - #5 Child & Family Teams
Registered for training.
 - #6 Shared Parenting
Worker is trained, working with parents.
 - #7 Coordination w/ Work First
Work First and Mental Health are involved in their staffing.
- *Also have half of the Eastern Band and are working on a memorandum of agreement with them.

Haywood County

- #1 Strengths based structured Intake
Going well, having to adjust to the additional time it takes.
- #2 Two approaches to reports
Just starting, trying to decide which staff will do what and trying to look at the past 6 months to see how many of each type they will need.
- #3 Coordination w/ Law Enforcement
Currently have a good relationship but they are working on a MOA and educating them on MRS.
- #4 Redesign of in home services
Debating how to handle this area, would like to get feedback from the pilot counties.
- #5 Child & Family Teams
Have been doing a version of this for 4 years, should be easy.
- #6 Shared Parenting
Attended training, putting into place, already have many Foster Parents who do it.
- #7 Coordination w/ Work First
Have a good relationship but sometimes it is hard to formally get together.

Yancey County

- #1 Strengths based structured Intake
Doing it. Feel that it takes too much time and are looking at ways to be more efficient.
- #2 Two approaches to reports
Dividing personnel.
- #3 Coordination w/ Law Enforcement
Need to educate to work as a team with law enforcement and protect social worker safety.

#4 Redesign of in home services

Most folks in the field are excited, but no hard details yet.

#5 Child & Family Teams

Doing some, having trouble beginning.

#6 Shared Parenting

Selected someone to be trained.

#7 Coordination w/ Work First

Have a meeting scheduled with them in a week.

* Concerned about the time that the extra tasks are taking

Union County

#1 Strengths based structured Intake

Has been in place for some time, working well, trying to get all staff trained to be able to take intakes.

#2 Two approaches to reports

Want all staff to be able to do each.

#3 Coordination w/ Law Enforcement

Already have a close relationship and use them on committees, will put some things in writing, also working to involve other stakeholders.

#4 Redesign of in home services

Not yet.

#5 Child & Family Teams

Have been using teams since the late 1990's. Working to identify a facilitator.

#6 Shared Parenting

Have been sharing with Foster Parents for some time, no strong objections.

#7 Coordination w/ Work First

They were at the meeting with DSS. Working to figure out how they won't duplicate each other's work.

* Delay in implementation because of their Child & Family Services review in early December

Cherokee

(Small county so people wear many hats)

#1 Strengths based structured Intake

Has gone well from the start.

#2 Two approaches to reports

Have not implemented yet, still training.

#3 Coordination w/ Law Enforcement

Have a good relationship but nothing is in writing, nor any formal training. Working to get on agenda for the town/county police meeting.

#4 Redesign of in home services

Not yet.

#5 Child & Family Teams

Have been using the concept, working well.

- They have no money for a facilitator, but their idea is to have one person trained on each team and they will do the other team's cases.
- #6 Shared Parenting
Now have a licensed, trained worker who will work with the foster parents.
Some foster parents for the idea, some resistant
- #7 Coordination w/ Work First
Going well. They participate in team meetings, and go to court with DSS.

Wataqua

- #1 Strengths based structured Intake
Going ok, still some challenges in that there are several people doing it and some are better than others.
- #2 Two approaches to reports
Scheduling for training now, some initial resistance by workers.
- #3 Coordination w/ Law Enforcement
Have a close relationship and are currently working together on Meth Lab issues. Need to work more on relationships with individual police departments.
- #4 Redesign of in home services
Not yet.
- #5 Child & Family Teams
Were doing some as a result of System of Care. Some families are doing them, but not all yet. The struggle is how to get facilitators. Thinking they may train all assessors and let them facilitate each other's cases.
- #6 Shared Parenting
Struggling with this as the licensing person is fearful for foster parent safety and against idea. Some foster parents are open to it however and are already doing it.
- #7 Coordination w/ Work First
Everyone knows each other because they are a small unit, but working on a more formalized system as they don't always end up with the right people at meetings.

Henderson

- #1 Strengths based structured Intake
Currently doing this. The investigators really like having the extra information.
- #2 Two approaches to reports
Preparing for training, have not implemented yet.
- #3 Coordination w/ Law Enforcement
Good relationship. Some social workers already located with law enforcement officers.
- #4 Redesign of in home services
Have not developed a plan yet.
- #5 Child & Family Teams
Have been using teams for the last 6 years. Concerned about how to ensure a neutral facilitator.

#6 Shared Parenting

Have been trained and are beginning to implement. Having the same mixed results that other counties have mentioned.

#7 Coordination w/ Work First

Working on it, but collaboration is currently spotty. Have begun bringing them into meetings but they are not on all teams as of yet.

Catawba

#1 Strengths based structured Intake

Doing this. They will have to add an additional person to handle intake calls.

#2 Two approaches to reports

See this as a challenge, they have been to training and are redesigning now.

#3 Coordination w/ Law Enforcement

Have MOA and 3 social workers based with law enforcement (1 with sheriff, 2 with city officers)

#4 Redesign of in home services

Have Intensive Family Preservation, Family Preservation & Reunification programs

#5 Child & Family Teams

15 people are already trained. Working on who to get from the community.

#6 Shared Parenting

Have already had some foster parents doing this

#7 Coordination w/ Work First

Already collaborate, but working on a formal protocol and work first personnel will be going to training.

Lincoln

#1 Strengths based structured Intake

Doing, finding it very time consuming, currently have only 1 intake worker

#2 Two approaches to reports

Still undergoing training, haven't implemented yet. Plan to keep a similar structure to what they currently have and transfer cases if necessary rather than have everyone trained on everything.

#3 Coordination w/ Law Enforcement

Have had an agreement for 8 years, also with the DA's office, try to encourage prosecution.

#4 Redesign of in home services

Not yet.

#5 Child & Family Teams

FFK county so already had teams and a couple of trained facilitators.

#6 Shared Parenting

Doing it but encountering same mixed reactions as other counties.

#7 Coordination w/ Work First

Already collaborating, planning to have weekly meetings

* Concerns: large amount of training, coverage

Iredell

#1 Strengths based structured Intake

Working ok.

#2 Two approaches to reports

In training.

#3 Coordination w/ Law Enforcement

In process.

#4 Redesign of in home services

In process.

#5 Child & Family Teams

Already using teams.

#6 Shared Parenting

Working well.

#7 Coordination w/ Work First

Need to work on more. Have a good relationship but the level of coordination is new.

Ashe

#1 Strengths based structured Intake

Working well.

#2 Two approaches to reports

Both workers are new so still working things out.

#3 Coordination w/ Law Enforcement

Good relationship but currently nothing in writing.

#4 Redesign of in home services

Currently one worker, will stay with that format.

#5 Child & Family Teams

Started this with System of Care.

#6 Shared Parenting

Have a new worker, same mixed results as everyone else.

#7 Coordination w/ Work First

Good relationships, some social workers former Work First workers.

Alexander

#1 Strengths based structured Intake

Working well.

#2 Two approaches to reports

Registered for training.

#3 Coordination w/ Law Enforcement

Working well, will fine tune relationship.

#4 Redesign of in home services

Currently redesigning.

#5 Child & Family Teams

Already done some, working on choosing a facilitator.

#6 Shared Parenting

Registered for training.

#7 Coordination w/ Work First

Everyone knows everyone else as they are small department, struggling with what information to share.

Davie

#1 Strengths based structured Intake

Overall working well, some community agencies need more education in how to report.

#2 Two approaches to reports

Working on staff divisions.

#3 Coordination w/ Law Enforcement

Great coordination with detectives, need to work with deputies more.

#4 Redesign of in home services

Working on this, may contract out.

#5 Child & Family Teams

New process, have found a meeting place that is off site (not at DSS).

#6 Shared Parenting

Similar to other counties, mixed reaction.

#7 Coordination w/ Work First

2 new supervisors so they can start off fresh. Each agency needs to realize what the other can do for the other.

Discussed possible meeting dates for the next meeting. February 20th was the most popular possibility. Will try to meet in Asheville as it is more central.